State of Alabama

Department of Youth Services

A STATE OF THE STA

ANYONE YOU LIKE

I'LL BE WHO YOU WANT ME TO BE!

ONE MINUTE I SHOW LOVE

THE NEXT MINUTE I SHOW HATE

TODAY I THINK I'LL BE EARLY

TOMORROW I'LL BE LATE!

DO I REALLY CARE?

AM I REALLY YOUR FRIEND?

DO I REALLY LIKE YOU

OR DO I JUST PRETEND?

A FEW PEOPLE CAN REALLY TRUST ME,

MOST ARE MAKING A MISTAKE,

SOMETIMES I GIVE

SOMTIMES I TAKE!

IF YOU LOOK DEEP INSIDE ME

YOU WILL SEE THE REAL ME

IF YOU DON'T LOOK DEEP ENOUGH
I'M JUST WHO YOU WANT ME TO BE!

APW

MY SPECIAL PLACE IS IN MY GRANDMA'S ARMS THIS IS WHERE I FEEL SAFE AND AWAY

FROM HARM. I CRY MOST OF MY TEARS THERE AND TELL OF MY PAIN. MY EMO-

TIONS FLOODING OUT LIKE A POURING RAIN. THOSE BROWN ARMS HAVE

HELD MANY YOUNG KIDS FULL OF FEAR BECAUSEOF THE THINGS

THEY DID. THOSE BROWN ARMS HAVE LIFTED MANY BABIES

AND GIVEN A HELPING HAND TO LITTLE OLD LADIES. IN

THOSE ARMS I FEEL SPECIAL AND UNIQUE UNTIL I

HAVE TO LEAVE THEM AND STAND ON MY TWO

FEET. THOUGH WE'RE SEPERATED I

CAN STILL FEEL HER ARMS AS I

WALK THROUGH EACH DAY

FEELING SAFE

FROM HARM.

C.C.M

1

MY ROOM

SIT IN

NO BIGGER-

THAN A BATHROOM

STALL. I SIT IN MY

ROOM, NOTHING TO DO AT

ALL. EVERY TIME I LOOK IN

THE MIRROR I SEEM TO GET TALL.

NOTHING TO DO AT ALL BUT BEAD

AND DD AV HODING TO MAVE IT

THROUGH THE NEXT DAY

THAT IS ALL I DO IN

MY ROOM.

T A W

SHE IS

LIKE A LIGHT THAT

SHINES ONLY IN DARK

PLACES AMONG THE GANG BANGERS,

THIEVES, MURDERERS, AND CONFUSED FACES.

SHE GUIDES WHOM SHE CAN, JUST LIKE AN EVERLASTING

TUNNEL OF LIFE. SHE TEACHES US THAT BRAINPOWER IS BETTER

THAN THE GLORY OF FIGHTS. SHE IS LOVED LIKE A MOTHER BYTHOSE WHO

NEVER HAD A MOTHER. SO YOU CAN NEVER HATE HER, BUT ALWAYS LOVE HER. SHE

TEACHES US THINGS THAT WILL ALWAYS HELP OUR SOUL: THAT IS WHY I CALL HER

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.

CA



ear Governor Riley:

The Department of Youth Services is pleased to present you its 2007 annual report detailing the activities of the department during the fiscal year. Several significant achievements were realized during the year, including the reaccreditation of several of our facilities. Four facilities, the Montgomery Group Home, Troy Group Home, Autauga Campus and the North Alabama Group Home achieved perfect scores in the process. The fifth facility, the Thomasville Campus, passed its reaccreditation with a score of over ninety-eight percent.

Additionally, we celebrated our tenth anniversary of the creative writing program entitled Writing Our Stories, a collaborative effort with the Alabama Writers' Forum. This curriculum has been so successful that many other school districts throughout the nation have adopted similar creative writing programs of their own.

We also continue to have excellent working relationships with other agencies and organizations involved in juvenile care and development, including the Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA.

As always, we are appreciative of the support and encouragement of your administration, as well as that of the Legislature, our Board, members of advisory committees, our departmental staff, and the numerous volunteers who give so freely of their time.

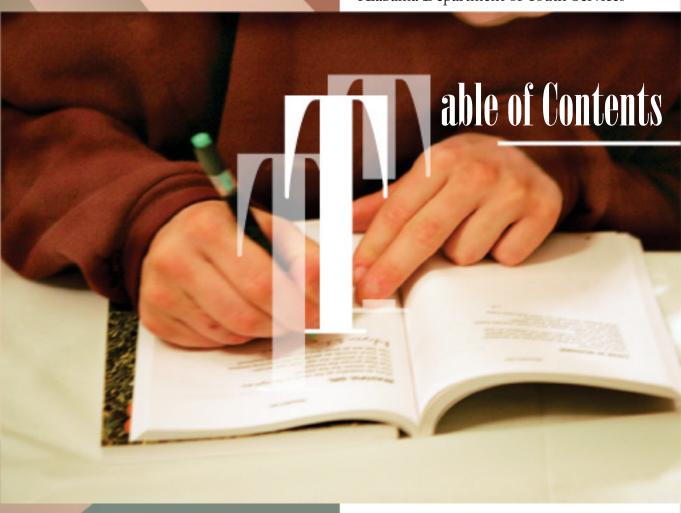
We anticipate continued success in our programs and activities in the coming fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Walter Wood, Jr. Executive Director

Jw=wood

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P.O. Box 66 Mt. Meigs, Alabama 36057



October 2006 – December 2006



Chairman Vice

At the December 1, 2006 meeting, the Board elected its officers for the 2007 fiscal year. Chairman Roy P. (Pat) Vice was unanimously re-elected to his fifth term as Board Chairman. Mr. Vice, a Board member since 1996, represents the Seventh Congressional District.



Vice-Chairman Johnson

Dr. Eddie Johnson was also unanimously re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Board at the December 1, 2006 meeting. Dr. Johnson has represented the State Superintendent of Education on the Youth Services Board since 1989, and is also beginning his fifth term as Vice-Chairman of the Board.



Secretary-Treasurer Lovell

At the same meeting, Judge Terri Bozeman Lovell was unanimously elected to her first term as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board. Judge Lovell was appointed to the Youth Services Board on January 1, 2004, and represents the Alabama Juvenile Judges' Association.





January 2007- March 2007



At the March meeting, the Director welcomed and introduced the Board's newest member, Representative Priscilla Dunn. Representative Dunn was elected to office in 1998 and represents the 56th District Jefferson County. She earned her B.S. from Alabama State University and her M.A. from the University of Alabama. Representative Dunn is the Homeless Education Coordinator for Bessemer City Schools, and is a Trustee and Sunday school



Representative Priscilla Dunn

teacher for Shady Grove Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. She also serves on the Board of the State Democratic Executive Committee and the Advisory Board for the Jefferson/Shelby Counties American Cancer Society.

The Director also recognized the reappointment of Senator Bradley Byrne and Representative Mac Gipson to the Youth Services Board. Also discussed, was the success of the Writing Our Stories program, a creative writing curriculum, beginning its tenth year of existence at the Department of Youth Services. In fact, it has been so successful that many other school districts throughout the nation have adopted this curriculum. Speakers included Congressman Artur Davis at Mt. Meigs Campus, Rev. Thomas Miller at Vacca Campus, and Ms. Kathy Yarbrough at Chalkville Campus.







April 2007 – June 2007

Report of the Board

During the third quarter of the fiscal year, three facilities were reaccredited by the American Correctional Association. The Montgomery Group Home and the Troy Group Home passed their reaccreditation with a perfect score. The Thomasville Campus passed its reaccreditation with a score of over ninety-eight percent.

In March, Curriculum and Federal Programs Coordinator, Tracy Smitherman, received her Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Policy and Law from Alabama State University. As Coordinator for the Alabama Department of Youth Services School District, her responsibilities include curriculum, academic programming, Federal programs, financial operations, and assisting with the management of personnel information, accreditation, data collection and analysis. She is also liaison to the Alabama Writers Forum, Alabama Public Library Services, Alabama Humanities Foundation and Motheread.



Thomasville HIT Program

Montgomery Group Home

Troy Group Home

Dr. Smitherman has been employed with the DYS School System since June 1997, and has previously served as principal of Eufaula and L.B. Wallace schools. She also holds a B.S. in Human Environmental Sciences from the University of Alabama, a M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision from Northwestern State University, and an Ed.S in Educational Leadership.



Dr. Tracy Smitherman

July 2007 - September 2007

Report of the Board

In the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, Board member Senator Bradley Byrne accepted an appointment as Post Secondary Chancellor, and tendered his resignation as Youth Services Board member. Chief Probation Officer Tom Wright also tendered his resignation to the Youth Services Board after accepting a position with the Administrative Office of Courts.

On August 28, 2007, the Chief Probation
Officer Association appointed Montgomery County
Juvenile Court Administrator and Chief Probation
Officer Bruce Howell as its representative on the
Board. Mr. Howell holds a B.S. degree in Law
Enforcement and a M.S. degree in Criminal Justice,
both from Jacksonville State University. He worked
for over three years at the Gadsden Police Department and was Chief Probation Officer for over eight
years at Etowah County.

Mr. Howell has spent the last 24 years as Chief Probation Officer/Court Administrator in Montgomery County. Mr. Howell is married to Jennie Helms Howell, Child Support Supervisor at the Montgomery County Department of Human Resources. He has one son, Chris Howell, an attorney in Prattville, and is the proud grandfather of three beautiful grandchildren.

During the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, the Autauga Campus received a perfect score on its reaccreditation by the American Correctional Association. In October, following the Autauga ACA audit, North Alabama Group Home in Florence, Alabama also received a perfect score on its reaccreditation.



Chancellor Bradley Byrne



Mr. Tom Wright



Mr. Bruce Howell

Featured Programs

The Youth Services School District continues to provide progressive and innovative career and technical education that will lead students to success in high-skill, high-wage and high-demand careers. This is accomplished in several different ways.

The Agriscience program begun at Vacca last year continues to expand and has spurred a renewed effort to beautify the campus. In addition to the coursework, which teaches students how to plant and care for flowers and shrubs, practical experience is also gained by actually pruning and trimming neglected plants and bushes. As a result of their efforts, the entire campus has shown a remarkable improvement in appearance.

At the Chalkville Campus, a College/Career Day was attended by more than seventeen local professionals who spoke with the girls about careers as diverse as licensed funeral morticians, dieticians, legal services, and independent sales consultants. This provided the girls with the opportunity to discuss

some of the college and career choices that interest them, and to learn the amount and type of education required for each career.

Also at Chalkville, the "Girls At Work: Power Tools for Power Moves" building construction program was in the last stages of planning. Implementation of the gender-responsive career and technical program is scheduled for 2008. The training will include classroom and worksite competencies, and will prepare the young women for apprentice level roles in non-traditional fields such as electrical, carpentry and welding.



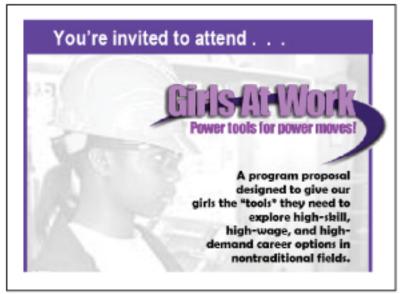
Career Fair at Chalkville



Greenery at Vacca



Renovation of Older Building



Generic Girls At Work Brochure

At Mt Meigs, the horticulture program has been expanded to include Plasticulture and Aquaculture. Both are fairly new growing methods for Alabama. Plasticulture attempts to minimize effects of extreme weather events through the use of plastic and irrigation. At Mt. Meigs, a strawberry patch was developed to utilize this new technology. Aquaculture raises aquatic species under controlled conditions. The students at Mt. Meigs are raising Tilapia, will harvest their waste, and use it to fertilize

gardens. Fish waste is an excellent source of nitrogen and provides an alternative to commercial fertilizers because it is ecofriendly.

Mt. Meigs ABSOP students also gained practical experience in masonry when they assisted their instructor with the renovation of an older concrete block building on campus. The building will be used as a career/technical education multi-purpose facility for the ABSOP program.



Strawberries at Mt. Meigs

Serving during FY 2007

Youth Services Board Members

Governor

Honorable Bob Riley State Capitol 600 Dexter Avenue Montgomery, AL 36130

Term Expires

Continuous as Governor

State Department Heads

Name and Address	Proxy	Term Expires
John Houston, Commissioner Ala. Dept. of Mental Health 100 N. Union Street Montgomery, AL 36130	Steve Lafreniere, Director of the Office of Children's Services 100 N. Union Street Montgomery, AL 36130	Continuous as State Dept. Head
Dr. Donald E. Williamson State Health Officer Ala. Dept. of Public Health RSA Tower Suite 1010 Montgomery, AL 36130	Kathy C. Vincent Staff Asst. to State Health Officer Ala. Dept. of Public Health RSA Tower Suite 1552 Montgomery, AL 36130	Continuous as State Dept. Head
Dr. Page Walley, Commissioner Ala. Dept. of Human Resources 50 N. Ripley Street, Suite 2218 Montgomery, AL 36104	Margaret Bonham, Director of Inter- Agency Planning and Collaboration 50 N. Ripley Street Montgomery, AL 36104	Continuous as State Dept. Head
Bill Johnson, Director Ala. Dept. of Economic & Community Affairs 401 Adams Avenue Montgomery, AL 36103	Robert Pruit, Acting Div. Director Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Division 401 Adams Avenue Montgomery, AL 36103	Continuous as State Dept. Head
Dr. Joe Morton State Superintendent Ala. Dept. of Education P.O. Box 302101 Montgomery, AL 36130	Dr. Eddie Johnson Deputy State Superintendent Ala. Dept. of Education P.O. Box 302101 Montgomery, AL 36130	Continuous as State Dept. Head

Serving during FY 2007

Youth Services Board Members

Congressional District Appointments

Name and Address		Term Expires
Vacant	1st Congressional District	9/02/2005
Willie R. Jones, Executive Director Cleveland Avenue YMCA 1201 Rosa Parks Avenue Montgomery, AL 36108	2nd Congressional District	9/02/2008
Charles Smith 1280 Sweetwood Court Auburn, AL 36830	3rd Congressional District	9/02/2006
Frankye H. Underwood P.O. Box 2144 Jasper, AL 35502	4th Congressional District	9/02/2007
William A. McDowell Second Mile Development P.O. Box 2531 Huntsville, AL 35804	5th Congressional District	9/02/2009
David C. Wilkinson 2504 Iverness Point Drive Birmingham, AL 35242	6th Congressional District	9/02/2011
Roy P. (Pat) Vice 408 Croy Lane Linden, AL 36148	7th Congressional District	9/02/2008

Alabama Juvenile Judges' Association

Name and Address		Term Expires
Judge Terri Bozeman Lovell District Court P.O. Box 455 Hayneville, AL 36040	Appointed 1/01/2004	1/01/2010

Serving during FY 2007

9/02/2009

Youth Services Board Members

Chief Probation Officer Association

Name and Address		Term Expires
Tom Wright, Chief Probation Officer Calhoun County Courthouse	Appointed 9/01/2003	9/02/2009

Appointed 8/28/2007

25 West 11th Street, Suite 120 Anniston, AL 36201

Bruce Howell Montgomery County Juvenile Ct. P.O. Box 9219 Montgomery, AL 36108

Legislative Appointments

Senator Bradley Byrne	Alabama Senate	Concurrent with
Ala. State House		Legislative Term

11 South Union Street Montgomery, AL 36130

Senator Quinton Ross Ala. State House Alabama Senate Concurrent with Legislative Term

11 South Union Street Montgomery, AL 36130

Representative Priscilla Dunn Alabama House of Representatives Concurrent with Legislative Term

460 Carriage Hills Drive Bessemer, AL 35022

Concurrent with Representative Mac Gipson Alabama House of Representatives Legislative Term

507 Cook Road Prattville, AL 36067

Officers

Roy (Pat) Vice, Chairman

Dr. Eddie Johnson, Vice-Chairman

Hon. Terri Bozeman Lovell, Secretary-Treasurer

Representative of the Governor

Ken Wallis, Esq. Governor's Legal Advisor State Capitol 600 Dexter Avenue Montgomery, AL 36130

Facility	County	Acreage
Autauga Campus	Autauga	63.07 ± (1)
Birmingham Lots	Jefferson	$.36 \pm (2)$
Chalkville Campus	Jefferson	575.16 ± (3)
Jemison Group Home	Chilton	38.46 ± (1)
Colbert County Lots	Colbert	8.10 ± (2)
Gadsden Group Home	Etowah	.14 ±
Montgomery Group Home	Montgomery	6.17 ±(1)
Mount Meigs Complex	Montgomery	$780.53 \pm (4)(5)$
Troy Group Home	Pike	1.04 ± (1)
Vacca Campus	Jefferson	178.06 ± (2)

Total Acreage

 $1,651.09 \pm$

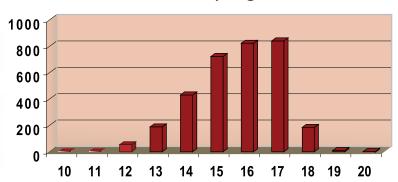
- (1) 1991 Survey by Robert Meadows, Alabama Department of Conservation
- (2) 1998 Report of the Alabama Department of Conservation
- (3) 1997 Survey by Sain & Associates and Robert Meadows
- (4) 1997 Survey by Larry Speaks
- (5) 2002 Land sale to DOT







Youth by Age

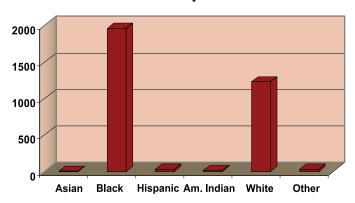


Age of Youth

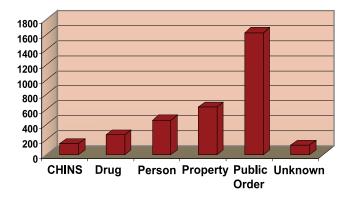
Youth by Sex

Female Male

Youth by Race



Youth by Offense



■■■ BLOUNT COUNTY

Alabama Youth Homes Oneonta Girls

Alabama Youth Homes Oneonta Boys

DALE COUNTY

Heritage House

ELMORE COUNTY

Alabama Youth Homes Wetumpka

ETOWAH COUNTY

The Bridge: Wilderness Program About Face

Reach A & D

HALE COUNTY

West Alabama Youth Services CHANCES

West Alabama Youth Services Girl's Group Home

■■■ HOUSTON COUNTY

Big Brother's Home Away From Home

Laurel Oaks Behavioral Center

JACKSON COUNTY

Three Springs Choices: Boy's Wilderness

LEE COUNTY

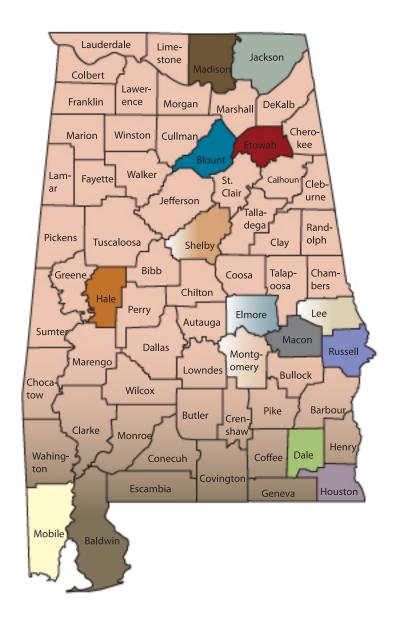
J & M Manor

Lee County Youth Development Center

> STARS BEAMS

MACON COUNTY

Three Springs Tuskegee



MADISON COUNTY

Three Springs Madison

MOBILE COUNTY

The Bridge - Step A & D Program

The Bridge - Camp Cobia

The Bridge - GEMS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Group Homes for Children New Horizons

RUSSELL COUNTY

New Life Center for Change

SHELBY COUNTY

Alabama Youth Homes Westover The Bridge - Pelham

Youth Services

Financial Statement

74	Fiscal Year				
REVENUES	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
General Fund	17,105,629	16,493,129	16,540,233	16,254,316	17,204,464
Children First Trust Fund	8,747,878	11,642,836	12,582,884	11,707,550	8,159,573
Al Special Education Trust Fund	44,365,131	43,874,364	43,781,969	46,803,585	53,403,655
Special Revenue	5,233,611	6,368,391	9,102,626	10,364,564	10,501,460
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	75,452,249	78,378,720	82,007,712	85,130,015	89,269,152
EXPENDITURES					
Personnel Costs	22,615,485	22,151,322	22,119,128	23,460,554	25,059,853
Employee Benefits	6,819,110	7,435,841	8,503,293	8,850,316	10,199,600
Travel In-State	282,816	276,963	314,529	312,047	282,917
Travel Out-of-State	14,943	28,862	32,217	48,770	46,087
Repairs and Maintenance	512,823	1,317,512	598,381	394,648	1,104,658
Rentals and Leases	196,400	184,767	173,592	176,098	192,299
Utilities and Communications	1,558,457	1,616,785	2,324,018	1,863,007	1,726,485
Professional Services	21,121,323	22,649,076	21,875,939	25,406,112	27,390,381
Operating Expenses	1,828,952	1,873,813	2,116,253	2,129,884	2,555,903
Transportation Equip Operations	129,698	126,310	168,257	187,009	224,990
Grants and Benefits	13,938,904	15,254,372	17,236,431	17,878,823	19,858,876
Capital Outlay	613,668	-	-	-	-
Transportation Equip Purchases	54,775	48,423	65,850	83,500	113,350
Other Equipment Purchases	326,244	254,578	329,639	199,963	243,065
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	70,013,598	73,218,624	75,857,527	80,990,733	88,998,464
LESS SPECIAL REVENUE CARRIED OVER	3,891,876	4,975,679	6,143,963	4,000,068	231,839
UNALLOCATED APPROPRIATION	1,185,507				
LESS REVERSIONS	361,268	184,417	6,222	139,214	38,849
BALANCE UNENCUMBERED	-	-	-	-	-

School District

Financial Statement

	Fiscal Year 2003	Fiscal Year 2004	Fiscal Year 2005	Fiscal Year 2006	Fiscal Year 2007
REVENUES	2005	2004	2005	2000	2007
General Fund	-	-	_	-	_
Al Special Education Trust Fund	6,648,596	6,720,663	6,715,712	7,248,800	7,510,855
Special Revenue	603,311	711,644	739,596	512,545	677,400
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	7,251,907	7,432,307	7,455,308	7,761,345	8,188,255
EXPENDITURES					
Personnel Costs	4,669,391	4,298,483	4,400,283	4,609,928	4,859,361
Employee Benefits	1,119,352	1,141,685	1,316,934	1,378,142	1,562,828
Travel In-State	17,802	21,737	24,705	22,031	33,614
Travel Out-of-State	-	2,850	_	2,850	6,568
Repairs and Maintenance	557	266,948	2,809	3,766	26
Rentals and Leases	14,895	18,059	16,756	13,779	16,842
Utilities and Communications	54,048	301,312	353,274	471,004	118,658
Professional Services	458,020	423,410	335,573	383,912	520,769
Operating Expenses	261,735	251,725	328,605	267,251	388,369
Transportation Equip Operations	3,027	2,305	1,883	2,638	4,406
Grants and Benefits	398,650	509,928	509,928	523,723	543,276
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation Equip Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment Purchases	88,309	173,123	161,555	80,124	126,383
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	7,085,786	7,411,565	7,452,305	7,759,148	8,181,099
LESS SPECIAL REVENUE	-	-	-	-	-
CARRIED OVER					
UNALLOCATED APPROPRIATION	74,632				
LESS REVERSIONS	91,489	23,592	3,003	2,197	7,156
DALANCE UNENGUASES					
BALANCE UNENCUMBERED	-	-	-	-	-

Mission Statement

The mission of the Alabama Department of Youth Services is to enhance public safety by holding juvenile offenders accountable through the use of institutional, educational, and community services that balance the rights and needs of the victims, communities, courts, and offenders.

Goals

ADMINISTRATION

- Promote public trust and confidence through the efficient stewardship of public funds
- Recruit, select and train employees at all levels to be positive role models for juveniles
- Promote the efficient use of resources by providing the least restrictive environment for the juvenile while protecting the community
- License local juvenile justice programs in order to protect the welfare and safety of youth placed in these programs

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

- Provide juvenile services within the framework of professional juvenile justice standards, legislative intent and available resources
- Hold juveniles accountable and responsible for their actions and teach them the consequences of their behavior
- Provide juvenile offenders opportunities to change behaviors based on an assessment of individual needs
- Place all juvenile offenders in a clean and safe environment that promotes dignity, responsibility, self-esteem, respect and a positive educational experience
- Promote the efficient use of resources by providing the least restrictive environment for the juvenile while protecting the community

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Provide juvenile services within the framework of professional juvenile justice standards, legislative intent and available resources
- Hold juveniles accountable and responsible for their actions and teach them the consequences of their behavior
- Provide juvenile offenders opportunities to change behaviors based on an assessment of individual needs
- Place all juvenile offenders in a clean and safe environment that promotes dignity, responsibility, self-esteem, respect and a positive educational experience
- Promote the efficient use of resources by providing the least restrictive environment for the juvenile while protecting the community

• Forge partnerships within the juvenile justice system, the community and the public and private sectors

BOOT CAMP

- Subsidize 266 licensed community boot camp beds
- Provide timely and accurate payments to 8 boot camp programs

SCHOOL DISTRICT INSTRUCTION

- Increase Youth Services School District communication
- Increase the effectiveness of school programs in safety, student activities and professional development
- Provide juvenile offenders opportunities to change behaviors based on an assessment of individual needs
- Place all juvenile offenders in a clean and safe environment that promotes dignity, responsibility, self-esteem, respect and a positive educational experience

SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

 Provide alternative academic program services and training for students with behavior and/or academic problems as means to deter commitment to DYS

Directory

Executive Director

J. Walter Wood, Jr.

Executive Assistant to the Director

Marcia Calender

Deputy Director for Administration

Allen L.Peaton

Deputy Director for Programs and Client Services

Tim Davis

Treatment Coordinator

Alesia Allen

General Counsel

William J. Samford, II

Deputy Attorney General

Dudley Perry

Community Services Division

Anita Boswell, Administrator

Institutional Services Division

G. Wayne Booker, Administrator

Superintendent of Education

John C. Stewart, Ed. D.

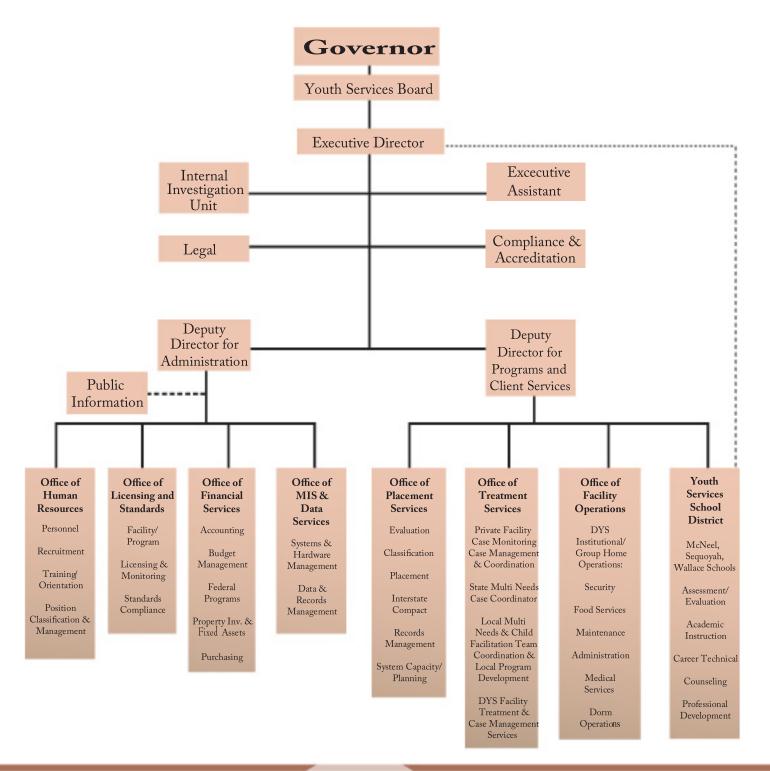
Licensing and Standards

Robert Matthews, Administrator

Screening and Placement

Patrick J. Pendergast, Administrator

Organizational Chart





MY DADDY LEFT US ALL ALONE BEFORE THE AGE OF TEN. HE TOLD US HE'D BE BACK TO SEE

US AGAIN. HE TOLD US THAT HE LOVED US, BUT IT WASN'T WORKING OUT BETWEEN

HIM AND MY MOTHER. HE STARTNG DOING DOPE AND SELLING DRUGS, GOT ON

THE STREETS AND TRIED TO BE A THUG. BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK

EITHER, IT ONLY MADE MATTERS WORSE. I'M GLAD HE GOT

LOCKED UP, BEFORE WE SAW HIM IN A HEARSE. - HE GOT

OUT-I GOT IN-JUST WHEN MY NEW LIFE WAS ABOUT

TO BEGIN. SO A I'M TRYING MY BEST TO GET

OUT OF THIS PROGRAM, TO MAKE

THINGS WORK, TO BE THE BEST

THAT I CAN BE, TO GET OUT

OF THIS CAGE AND FLY

FREE.

I.K.R

BE-LIEVE THE **WORLD IS** NOT FAIR. PEOPLE ARE CRUEL AND DO NOT CARE. I BELIEVE WE ARE ALL BORN OF ONE RACE, JUDGE NOT BY THE COLOR OF OUR FACE. I BELIEVE IN THESE THINGS, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE COM-PLICATED WAY OF GOD'S GREAT PLAN. I BELIEVE IF I CHANGE SOME THINGS IN MY LIFE I COULD AVOID ALL THIS WORRY AND ALL OF THIS STRIFE. I

BELIEVE MY MISTAKES

CAN BE FORGIVEN,

AND ONLY I CAN

CHANGE THE

WAY I'M

LIVING

J.M.

I'M A
CAGED
BIRD WANTING
TO BE FREE CURIOUS
TO FIND OUT WHAT THE
WORLD HAS IN STORE FOR ME. I'M
A CAGED BIRD, YOUNG AND BRIGHT
READY TO BRING TO THE DAY WHAT I DREAM
ABOUT AT NIGHT. I'M A CAGED BIRD CHIRPING OUT
AIN HUMMING MY WAY TO FREEDOM WHILE GOING
ANE. I'M A CAGED BIRD WHOSE WINGS HAVE BEEN
RED. I'M READY TO LOOK INTO THE WORLD WITH A BRAY
WAS A CAGED BIRD, NOW I AM FLYING FREE. I'VE REALIZE

SITTING IN MY ROOM THINKING OF MY PAST MISTAKES, THEY REMIND ME OF THE WALLS NEVER LETTING ME GO. MY BED IS SO HARD THAT IT RETRIEVES MEMORIES OF THE PAIN I'VE CAUSED, WISHING I COULD TAKE IT BACK. MY DESK SYMBOLIZES WHAT I'VE LEARNED FROM MY PAST MISTAKES. THE STALE AIR CONSTANTLY BREATHES ON ME. REMINDING ME THAT I CAN'T CHANGE WHAT I'VE DONE. I CAN ONLY TRY TO MAKE IT BETTER. THIS IS THE ROOM I HATE. THIS IS THE ROOM I STAY

L.S.

OFTEN LOOK INTO MY SOUL BECAUSE I'M SCARED OF WHAT I MIGHT FIND LIFE ON THE STREETS AND IN THE GHETTOS HAS HARDENED ME SO I'M NOT AFFECTED LIKE I SHOULD BE WHEN I HEAR A BABY'S CRY DON'T GET ME WRONG, I STILL CARE BUT I DON'T FEEL THINGS AS DEEP ANYMORE THE REAL AND PAS-SIONATE ME IS IN HERE SOMEWHERE BEHIND THE THOUSAND WALLS, I HAD TO CON-STRUCT AROUND MY HEART JUST TO KEEP FROM GOING INSANE IT'S GONNA TAKE A LOT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE TO KNOCK THESE WALLS DOWN BUT IT'S NOT AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP

I DON'T

M.H.J • Rehabil